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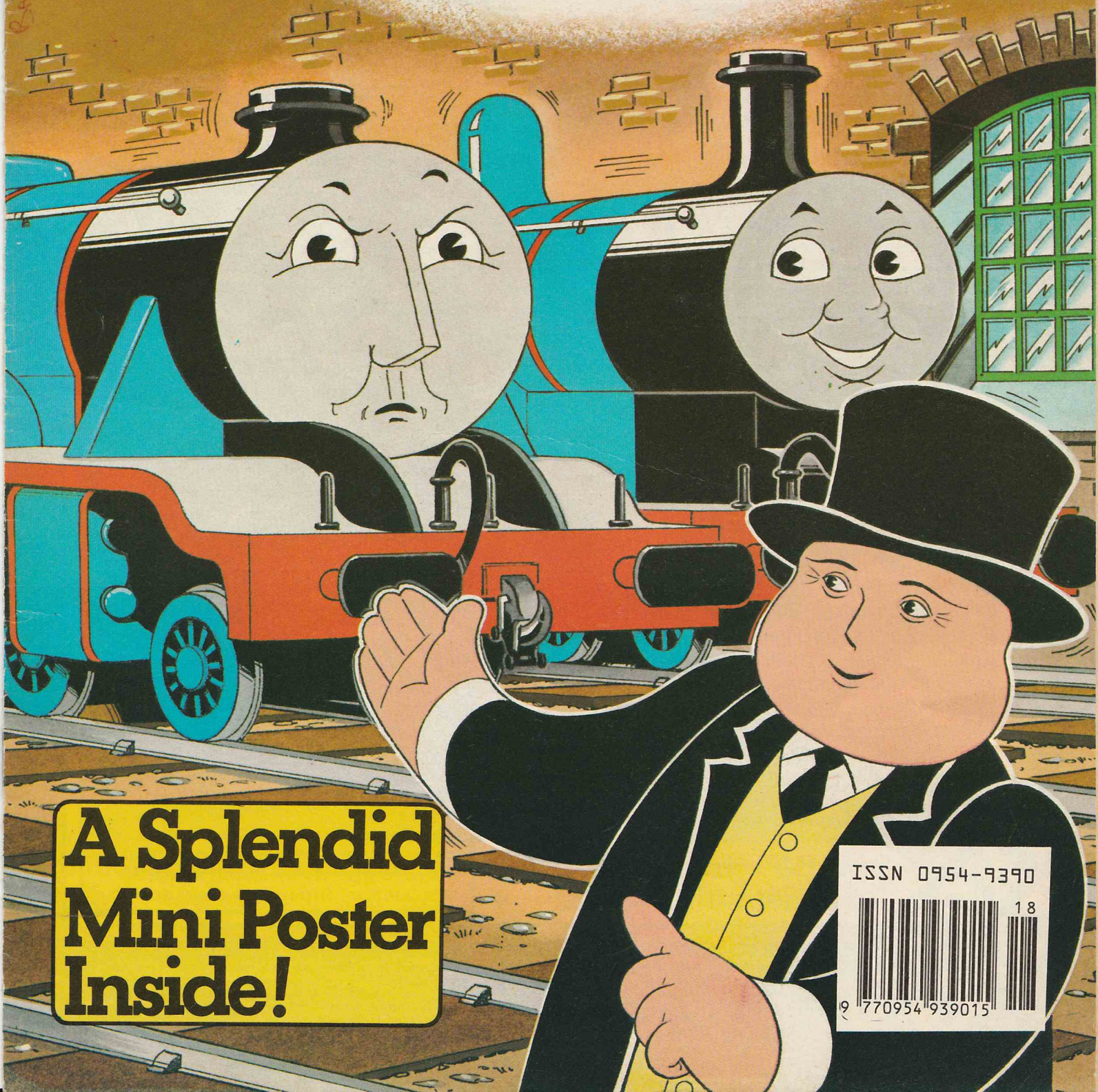
12th May 1990
No. 67 45p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry

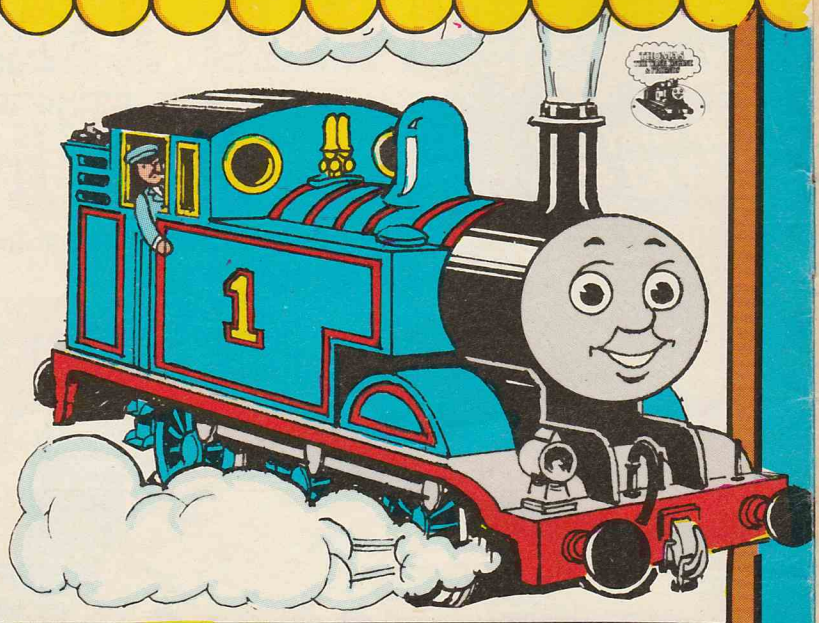


A Splendid Mini Poster Inside!

ISSN 0954-9390

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE

Peep! Peep! While Gordon the Big Express Engine is in the maintenance shed for repair, the Fat Controller decides that Edward the Blue Engine shall pull the Express train! But on his first journey, Edward returns to the station without the Express! Oh dear, this will never do! Peep! Peep!



EVERY ISSUE!

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MEMBERSHIP ONLY!

There is another way of joining the **Thomas Club** without taking out a year's subscription. Just collect 3 tokens like the one at the bottom of this page. Send one **yellow,** one **red** and one **green** token, together with a stamped addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

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In our next issue: There's a special story about Henry's forest!

SPLENDID COMPETITION!

Don't miss the next issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends (68),** for your chance to win one of the fabulous prizes shown above! We've a total of **41** prizes to give away, in our splendid competition! Order your copy now!

THOMAS TOKEN

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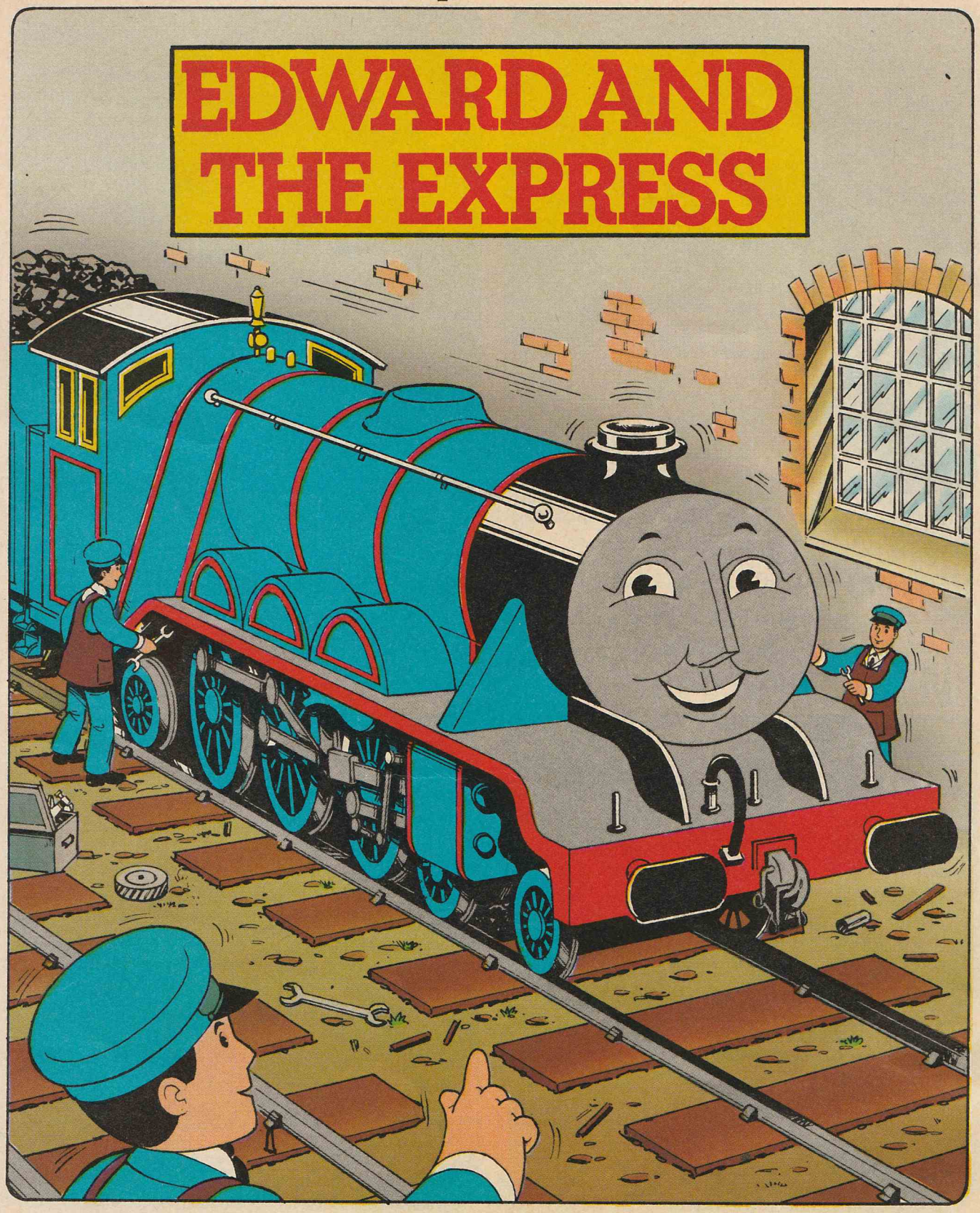
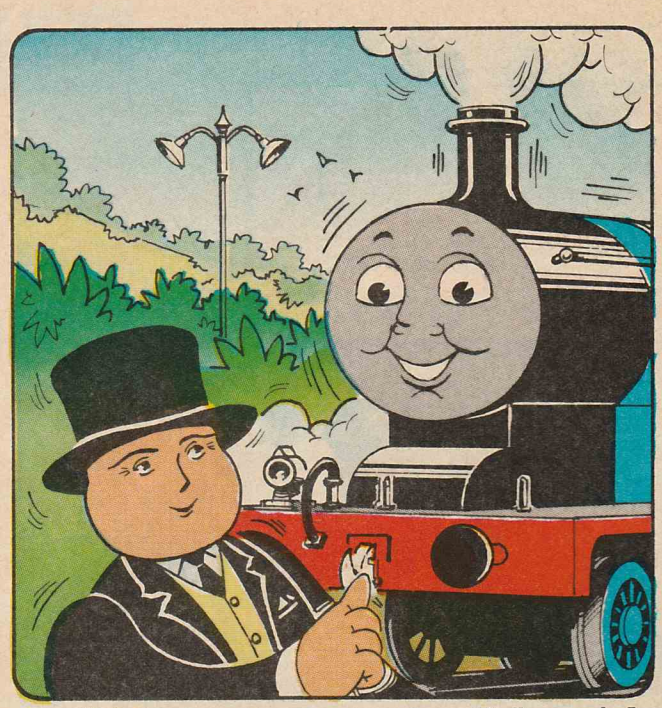
ABC

A listen and look story!

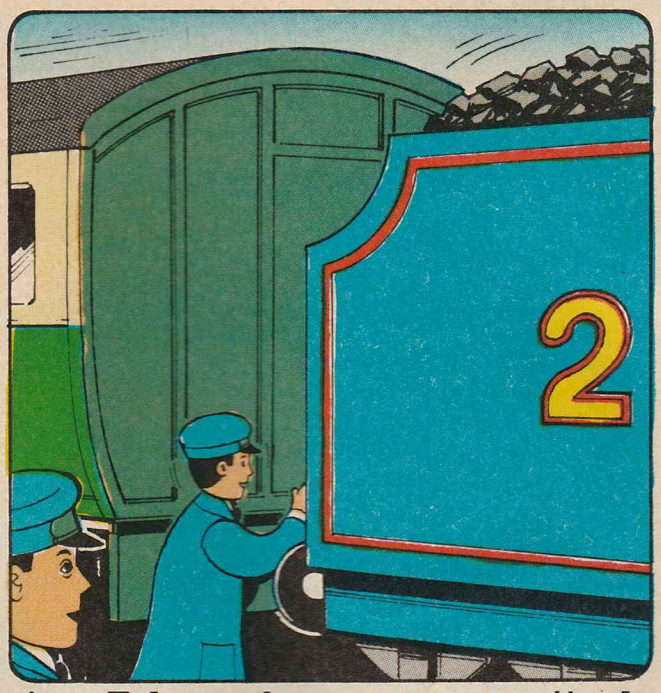


1. Gordon thinks that he is the most important engine on the Island of Sodor. He pulls the big Express. "The railway could not cope without me!" he boasts.

2. One day, Gordon was in the Maintenance Shed to be checked over. "Who will pull the Express?" he whistled huffily. "While I am here?"

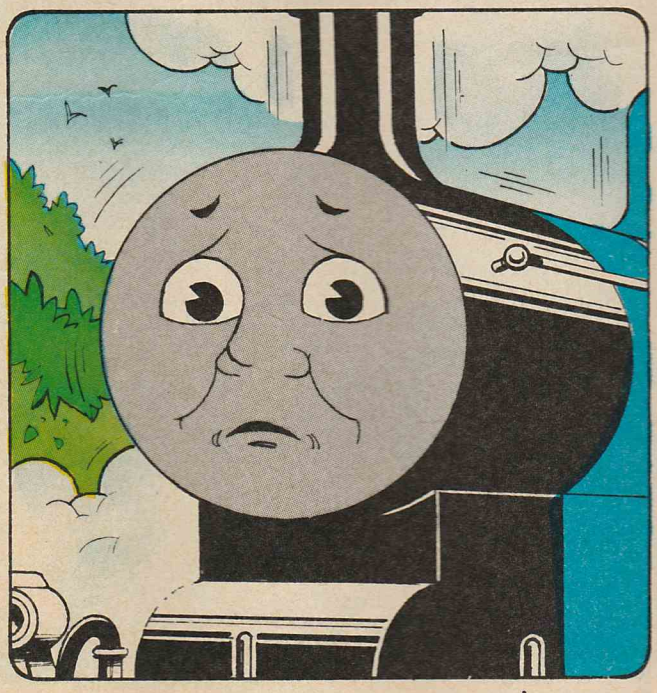


3. "Edward can do it," said the Fat Controller. "He's a good Tender Engine who works hard." Gordon was shocked. "Edward's too old!" he objected.

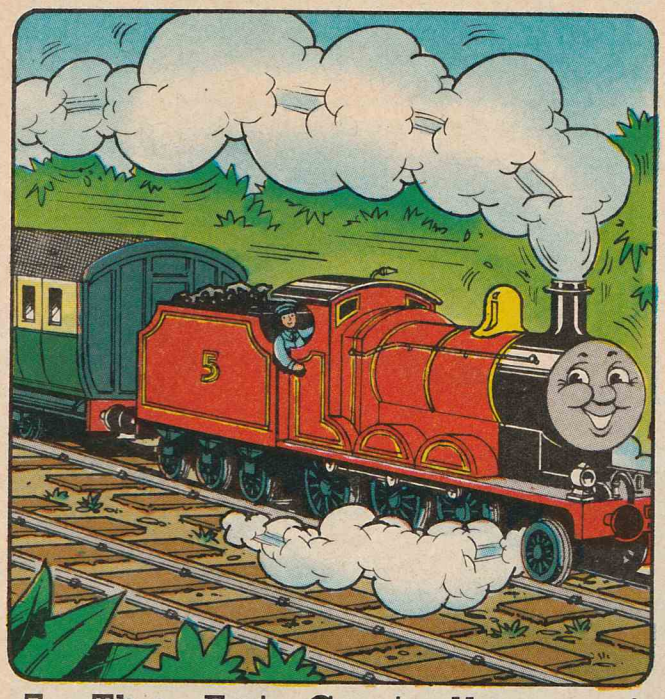


4. Edward was excited about pulling the Express. His driver coupled him to the coaches. "Edward is too slow to pull the Express!" grumbled Gordon.

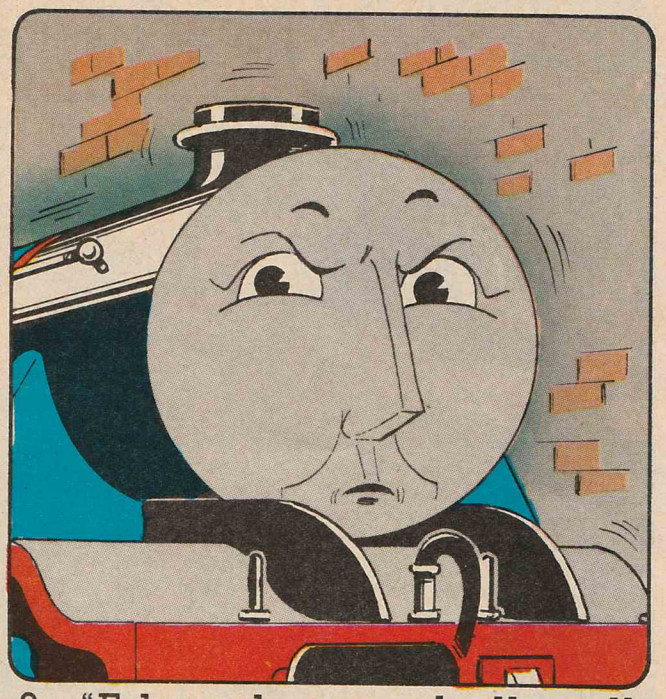
5. Gordon chuckled when an hour after leaving the station, Edward returned, without the Express! "What happened, Edward?" demanded the Fat Controller.



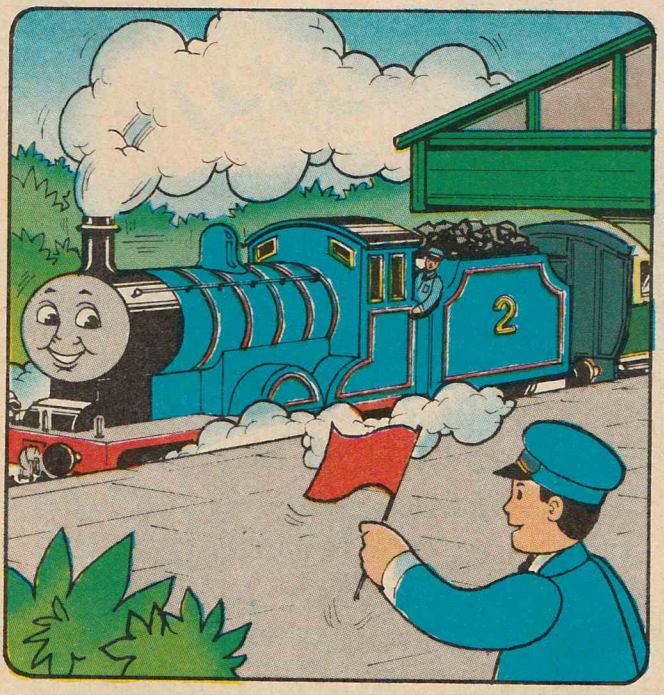
6. "Please, sir, don't be angry," said Edward. "I was pulling the Express when my couplings broke. We had to leave the Express on the line and come for help."



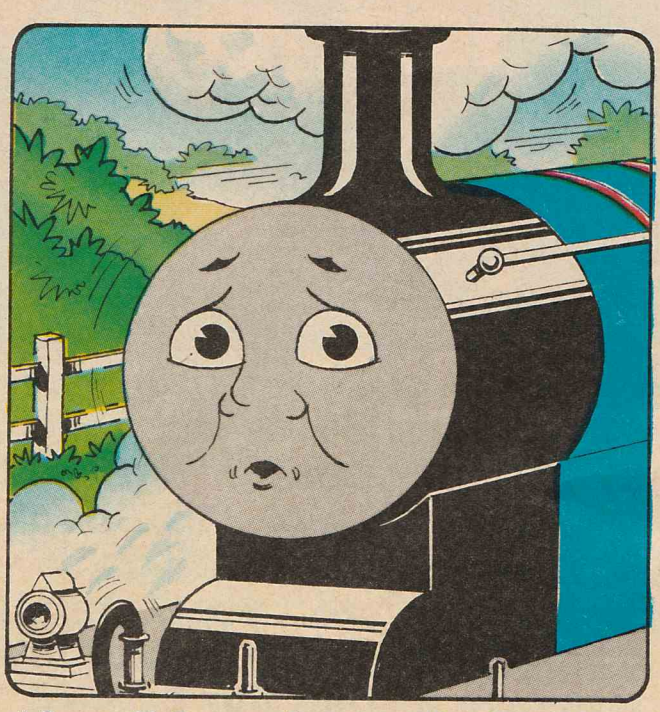
7. The Fat Controller sent James to collect the Express while Edward's couplings were replaced. "It wasn't your fault, Edward," the Fat Controller said kindly.



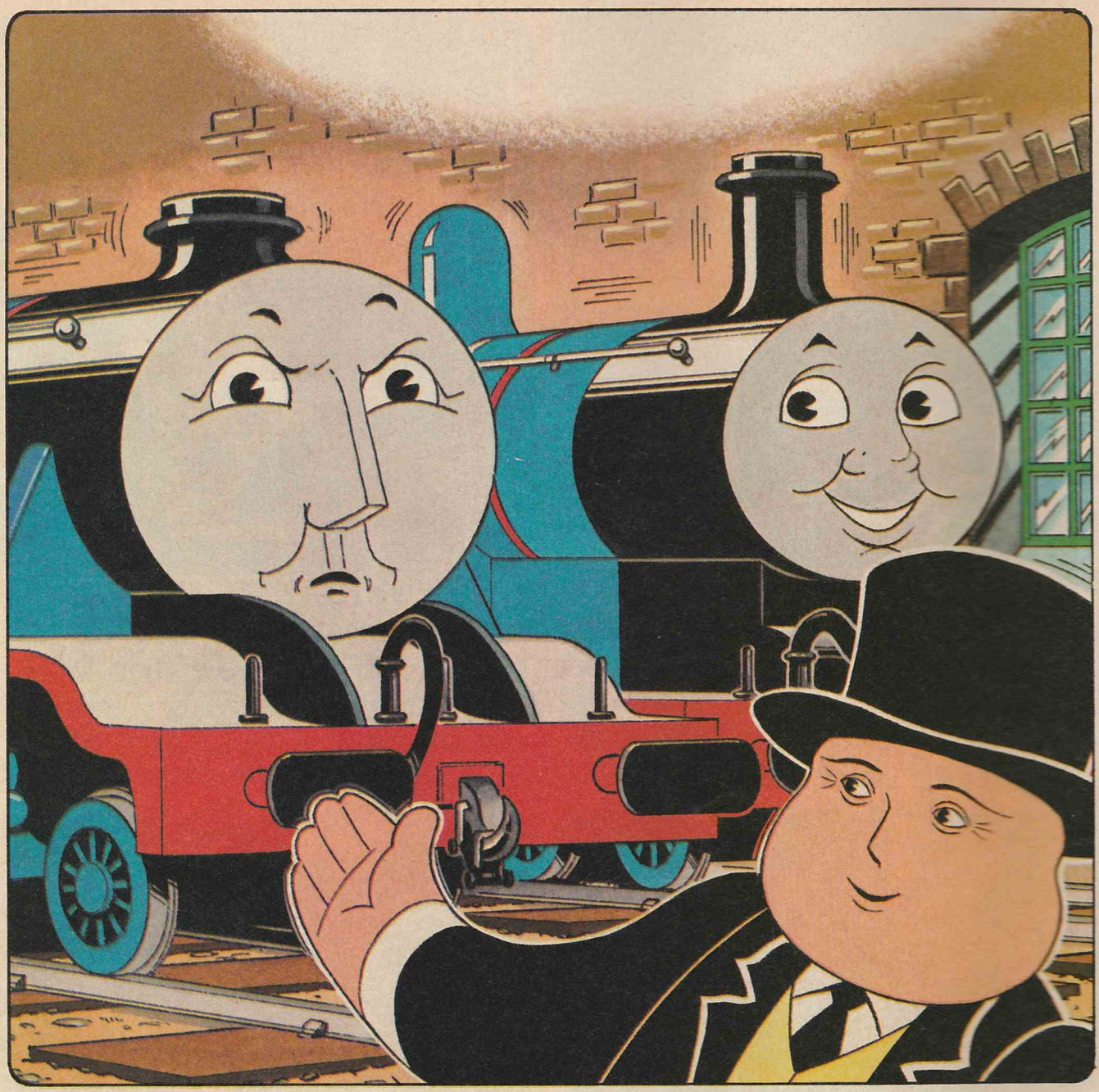
8. "Edward, you shall pull the Express again this afternoon," he said. Gordon was very angry! "Edward's a silly old engine! He won't be able to do it!" he said.



9. Edward was pleased to be given another chance to help. When the time came, he was coupled to the Express, and happily puffed out of the station.



10. Edward pulled the Express along the main line. "Oh dear, I'm not as strong as Gordon!" he groaned. "Pulling the Express is very hard work indeed!"



11. The coaches thought Edward might stop and give up. Then Gordon would make fun of him. "You can do it, Edward! You can do it!" they sang to keep him going. This time, Edward did manage to pull the Express to the end of the line, and back again! The Fat Controller was very pleased with him.

12. "The passengers tell me that you didn't bang the coaches or stop too quickly, like Gordon often does," he said. "I might let you pull the Express again, Edward, when Gordon is being repaired." Gordon realised that Edward had been a Really Useful Engine after all!

THE END

In our next issue: One bump too many!

SUBSCRIPTION PAGE!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS MAGAZINE

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My favourite engines are

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PHOTO

Please allow 28 days for delivery of your first magazine plus membership card!

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YES! I should like my child to receive every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** fortnightly magazine by post and should like to take out a year's subscription. I enclose a cheque/postal order for **£15.00** to include postage and packing. Overseas subscribers **£30.00**. Please enrol my child as an immediate member of the **Thomas Club** if he/she does not already belong. I look forward to receiving our splendid **membership card!**

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Signature I AM OVER 18 .....

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IT'S FUN TO LEARN WITH THOMAS

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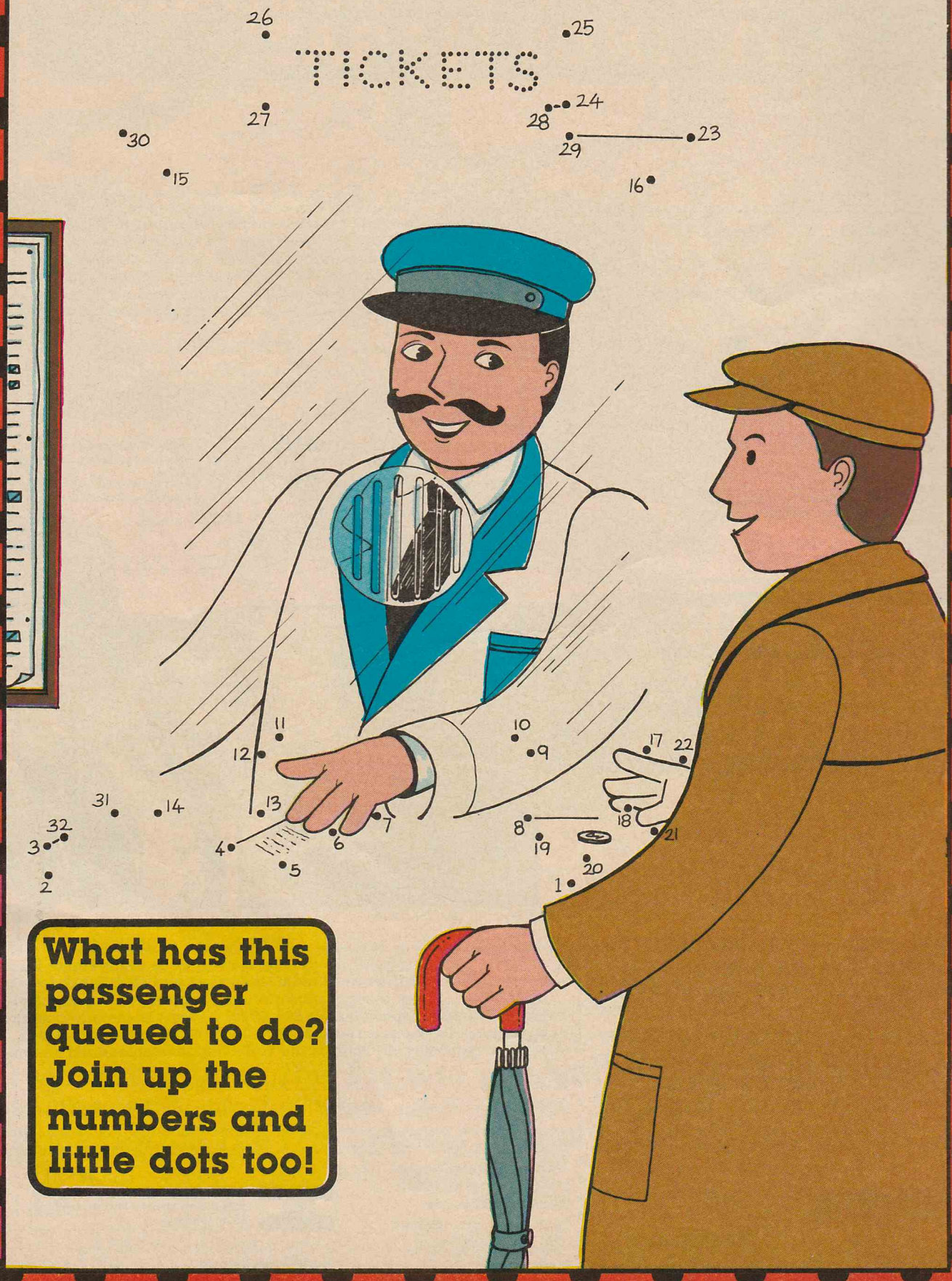
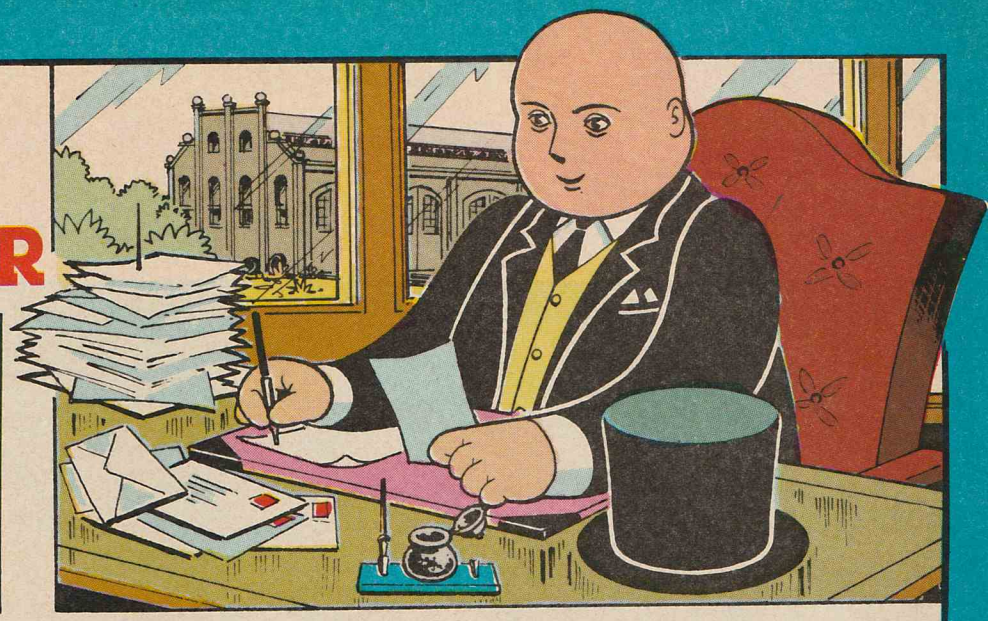
JOIN THE DOTS!



What has this passenger queued to do? Join up the numbers and little dots too!

Write to the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

★★★★★★★★★★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
A little while ago, Mummy and Daddy took me to see some real steam engines. One that looked just like Percy took us for a ride and then the driver let me go into the cab and see the firebox! I like Percy best because Mummy says he is cheeky, just like me!

Love from **Paul,** aged 3.

Well, well . . . it sounds as if you had a very splendid time indeed! Percy was very pleased that you like him best, too!

★★★★★★★★★★

Paul wins a splendid Thomas the Tank remote control engine from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

A KEEN FAN!

Dear Fat Controller,
I have a **Thomas the Tank Engine** electric train set which my Daddy has fixed onto a board for me. I also eat all of my food from a Thomas plate and am writing this letter in my Thomas jumper!

From **Kieran,** aged 6.

Upon my soul! *You must be a very keen Thomas the Tank Engine fan indeed! Keep it up now!*

SMART DRESS!

Dear Fat Controller,
Do your drivers and guards ever wear any other colour uniforms other than blue?

From **Charlotte,** aged 4.

As a rule, I do prefer my drivers and guards to wear only blue uniforms, to give my railway a smart image. However, when they are working down on the tracks, they each have a set of brown tunics which they wear, to protect their smart uniforms!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our very best wishes go out to:

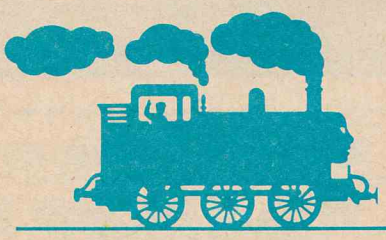
Jamie Crowin, Deccan Crowin, Michelle Nicholson, David Preston (30069), David Soan (27398), Dean Thomas McGeary (19811), Anthony Rita Devlin (26667), David Morgan, Sarah Murphy, Shaun Bantham (70319), Ryan Ashley Jones, Joe Akers (25438), Robert James Latford (31787), Shaun Banham, Damian Jackson (21122), Alexander Clarke, Adam Howard (27169), Katie Spitzmaul, Matthew Spitzmaul, Ryan Young, Thomas Milne (30367), Daniel James Robinson (22251), Steven Brownett (14571), Adam Middleton (30089), Holly Mawer, Helen Belton, Julia Mitchel, Adam Pluckrose (11382), Christopher Noble, Paul Martin Bradshaw and Mark Sale (29304).

If you'd like a mention here, just send details on a **postcard** please, at least 9 weeks in advance!

Yours,

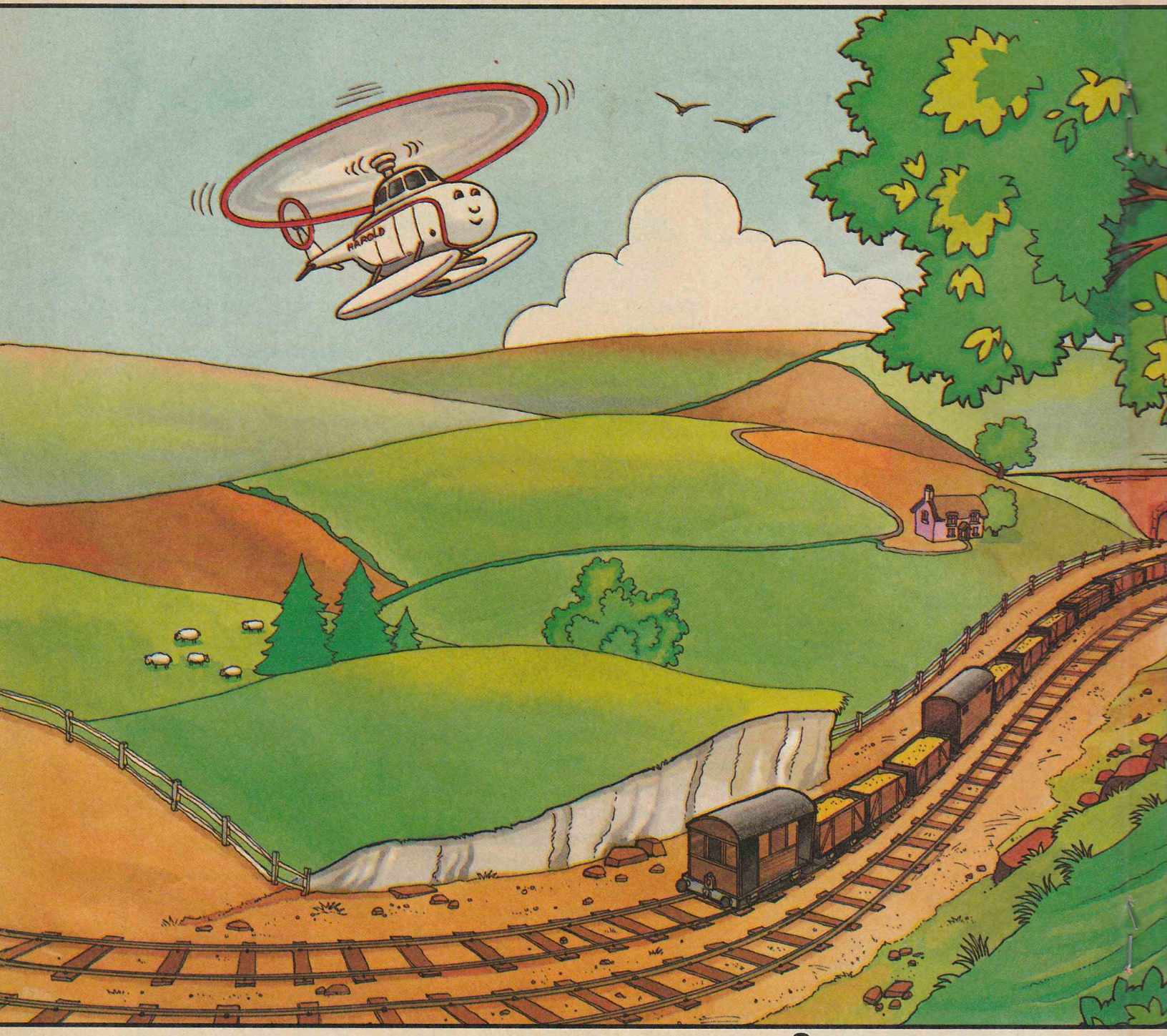
Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.



Send your letters to: The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Round the



Can you see an engine?

Where do you think he is?

Who do you think he is?

Who is the boy waving to?

What is his friend doing?

What is lying on the grass

Can you count the trucks?

How many sheep are there

e bend!

ng?

grass close to the tree?

cks?

there?

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

Next Issue: Through the cottages!

COLOURING TIME!

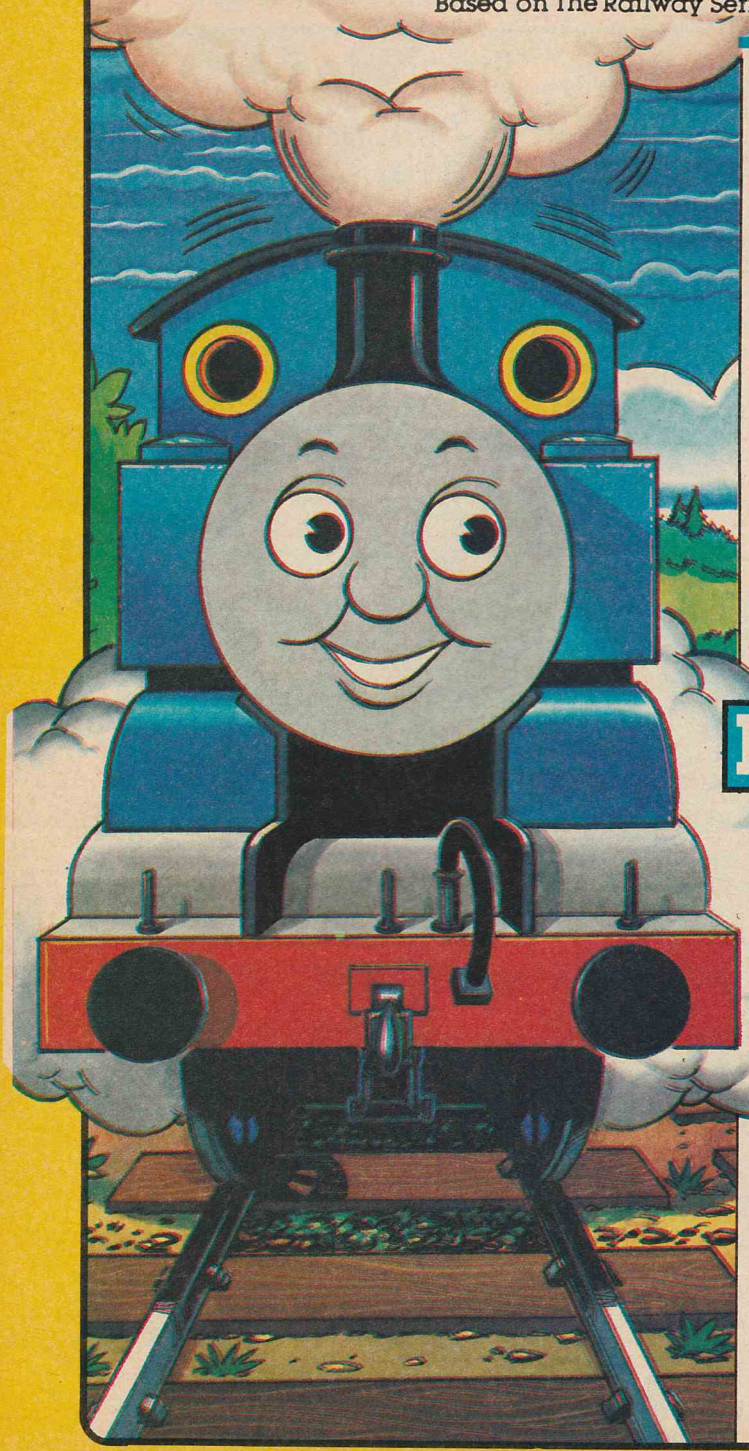
Scheming Diesel is an oily sight
Colour him in – but not too bright!

IT'S FUN TO LEARN WITH

THOMAS

THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



Thomas the Tank Engine and his friends learn all sorts of interesting things as they puff round the Island of Sodor.
Jump aboard and you can come too!

EVERY MONTH!

Learning is fun with THOMAS!

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A read-aloud story!

Timetable Trouble

Every now and then the Fat Controller updates the timetables for all the trains on his railway. Certain trains have to run earlier and other trains have to run later. Sometimes there are new runs to make as well.

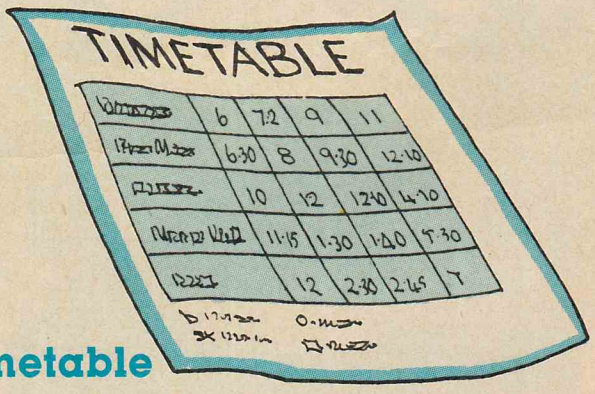
One day the Fat Controller had made out some new timetables. Each driver was given the timetable for their own particular engine.

On the first morning of the new timetables, Gordon was waiting at the platform with his coaches. His passengers were arriving one by one. Gordon was quite happy.

Then what should Gordon see, but James backing towards him along the track.

"Hey! Look out!" whistled Gordon. "Pip! Peep peep! I'm behind you, James!"

James's driver put the brakes on. "What are you doing there, Gordon?" asked James. "You're in my way!"



timetable

"I'm in **your** way!" huffed Gordon. "You are in **my** way! I'm supposed to be leaving in five minutes' time!"

"Nonsense!" said James. "I'm supposed to be leaving in five minutes' time! Check your timetable again!"

Just then there came a whistle from behind Gordon. "Peeep peeep!

Come on!" It was Thomas.

"Don't whistle at me!" snorted Gordon. "Tell James! He's in my way!"

"I don't know about that," said Thomas. "But I do know that I'm supposed to be leaving in five minutes' time!"

"Five minutes!" shouted Gordon. "That's when I'm supposed to be leaving."

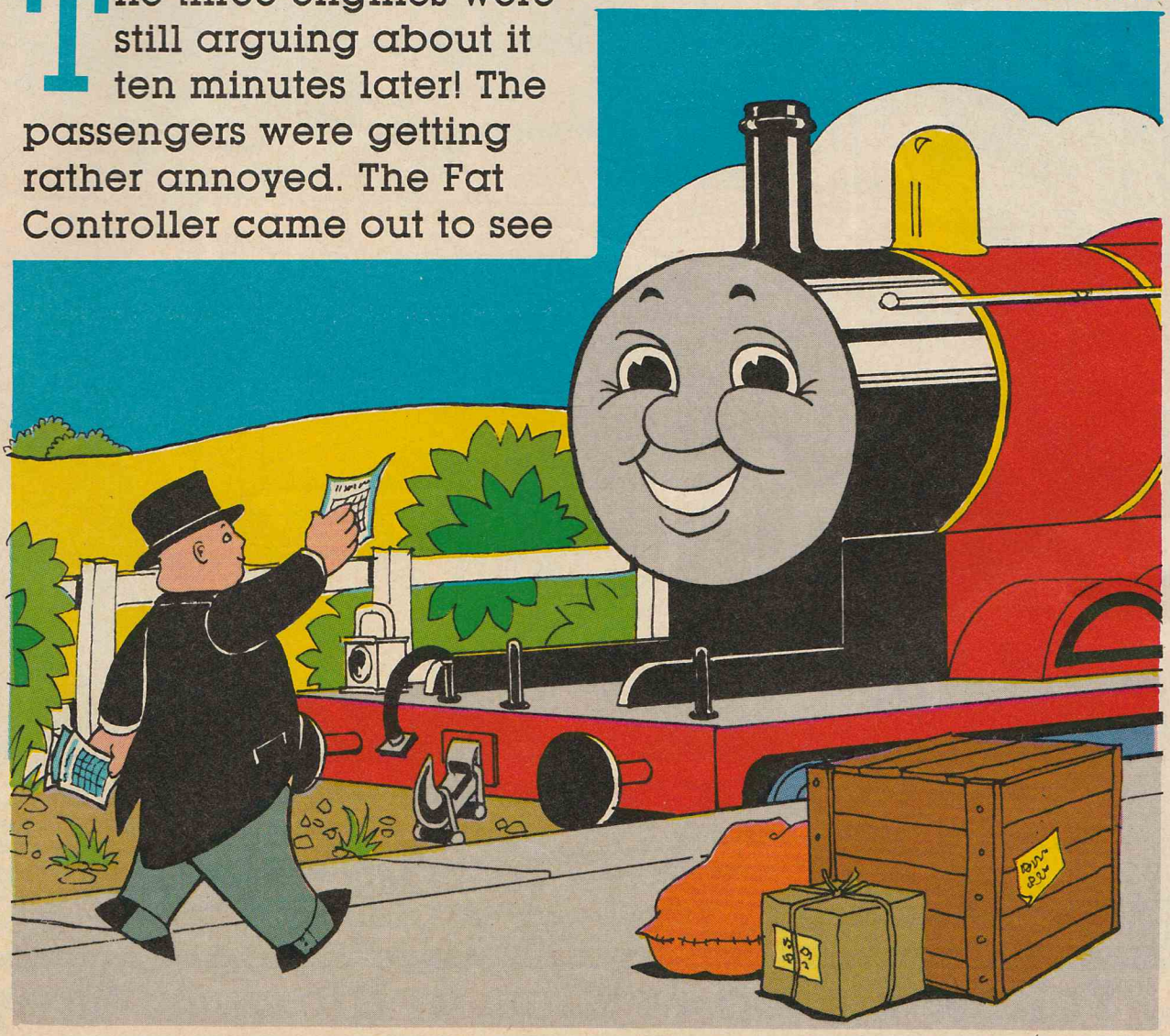
"Actually," said James. "It's only four minutes now!"

The three engines were still arguing about it ten minutes later! The passengers were getting rather annoyed. The Fat Controller came out to see what was going on.

"Let me look at your timetables," he said. Then he realised what had happened. By mistake all the engines had the same timetable! They were each expecting to leave at the same time from the same platform!

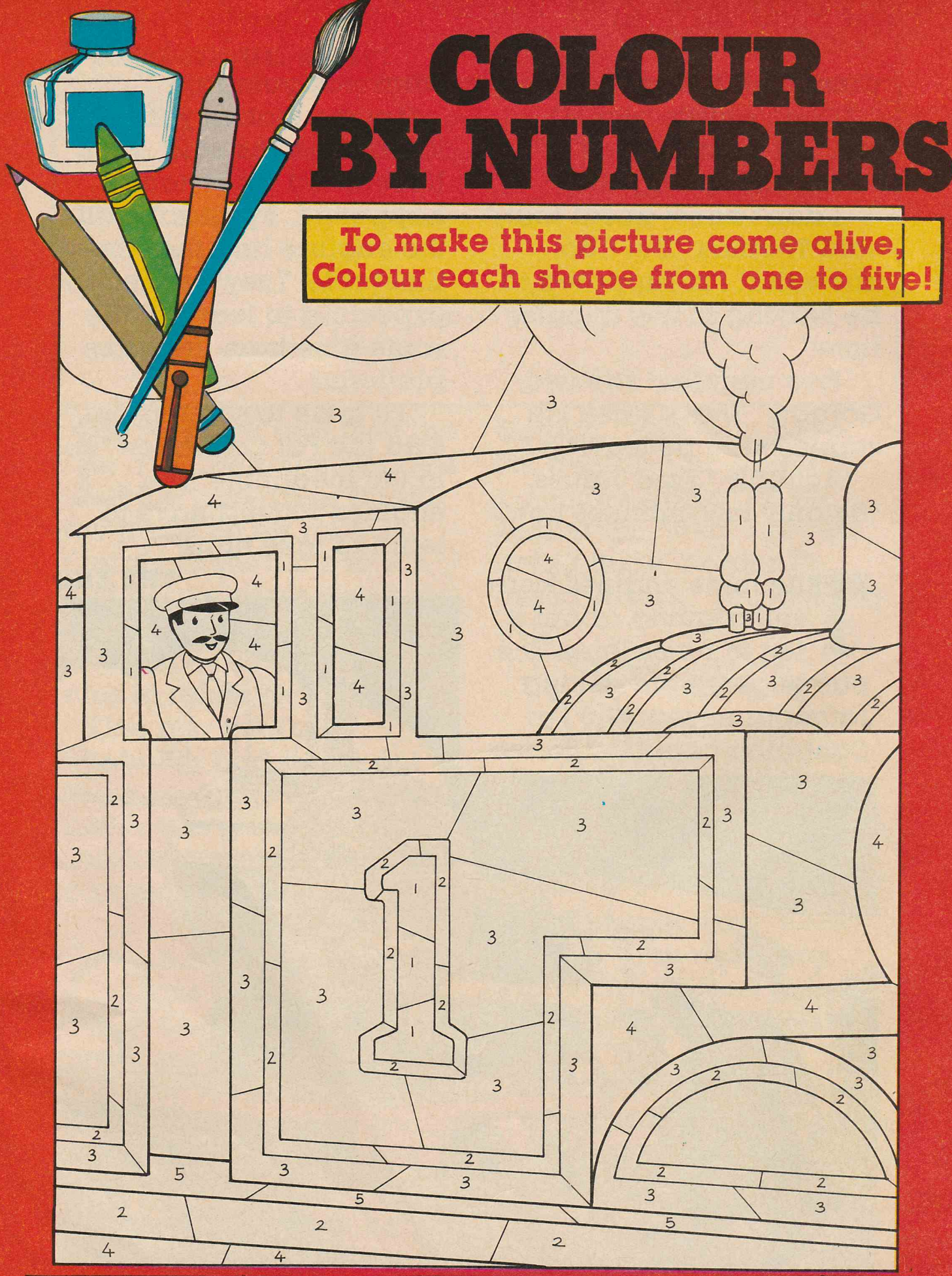
"I'll have to sort this out," said the Fat Controller. "But in the meantime, you engines will just have to learn to take turns!"

THE END



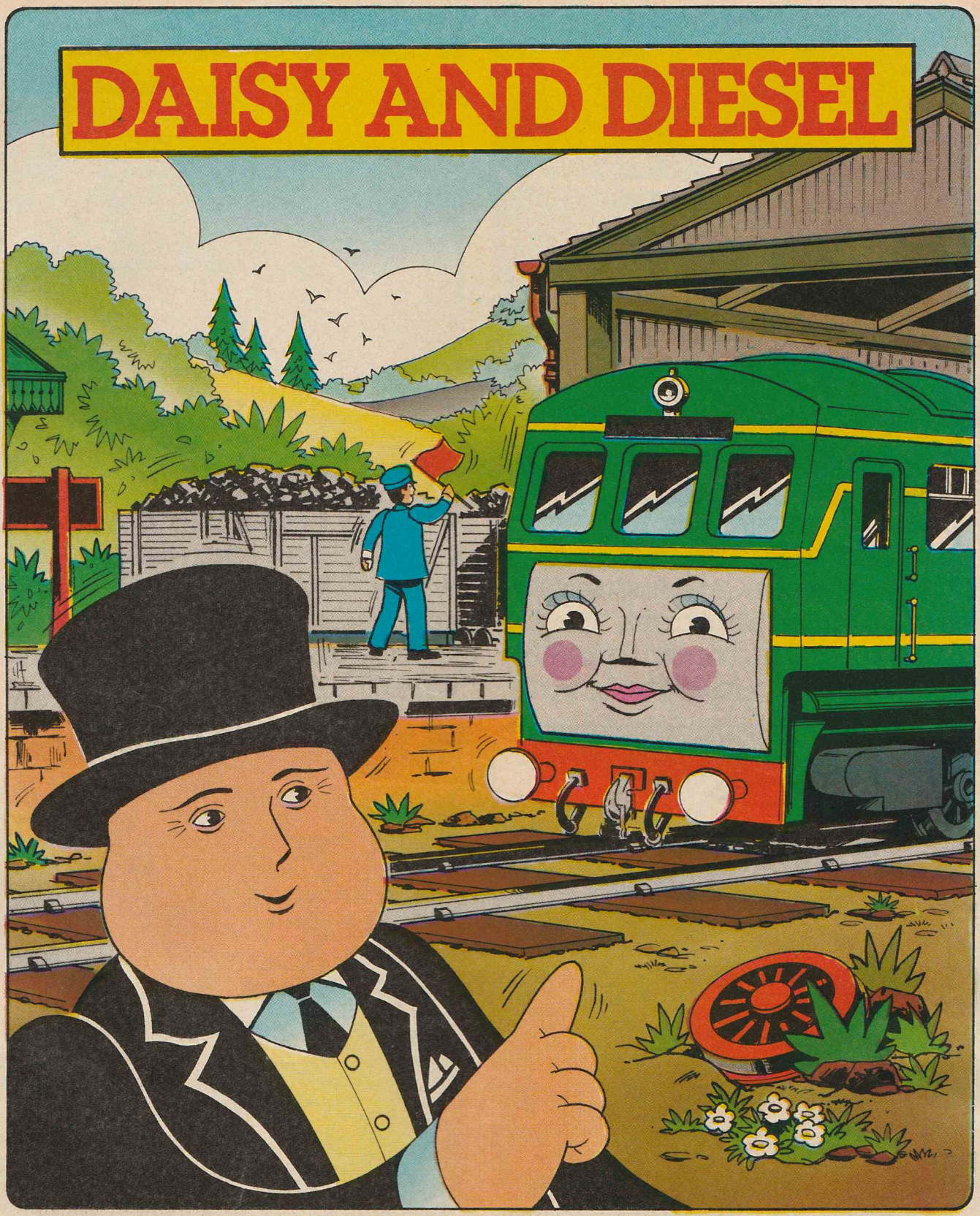
COLOUR BY NUMBERS

To make this picture come alive, Colour each shape from one to five!



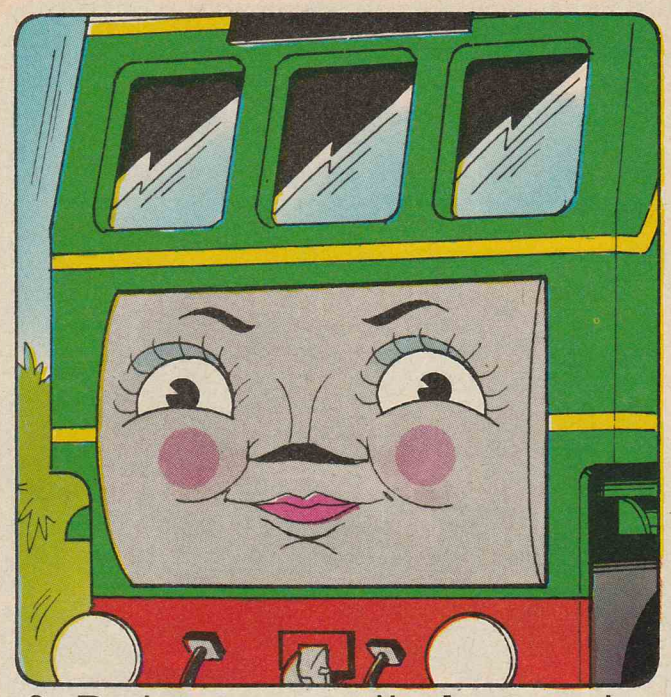
1. Yellow 2. Red 3. Blue 4. Black 5. Grey

A listen and look story!

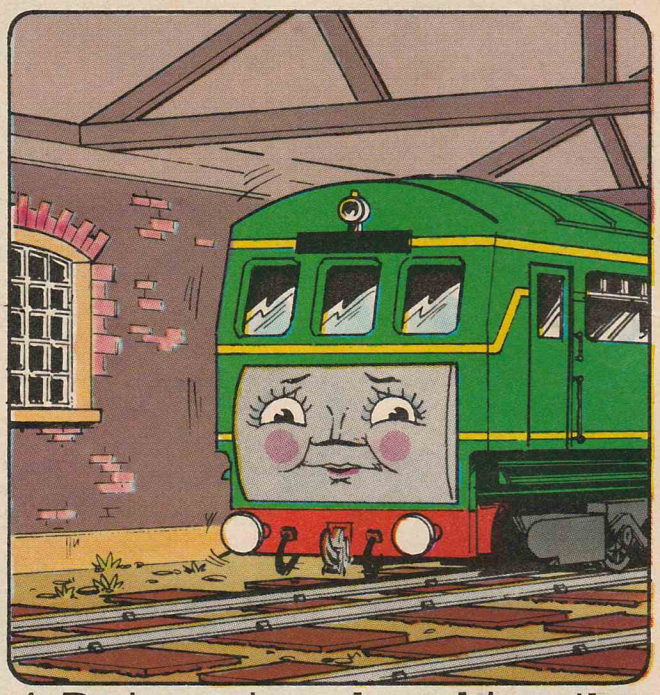


1. Daisy is a diesel railcar. She is rather fussy. She won't do any work that she thinks is too dirty. "My job is to carry passengers only," she says proudly.

2. One day, the Fat Controller brought her to the main station. "We're very busy, Daisy," he said. "We need you to help run Thomas's branch line."

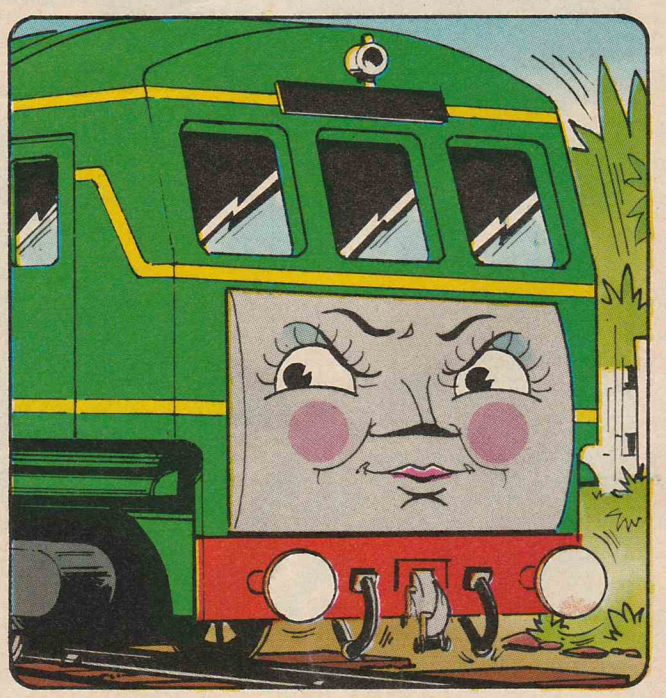


3. Daisy was quite happy to do this. "Passengers enjoy travelling on me," she purred. "I'm a modern diesel railcar. I'm comfortable, and right up to date."

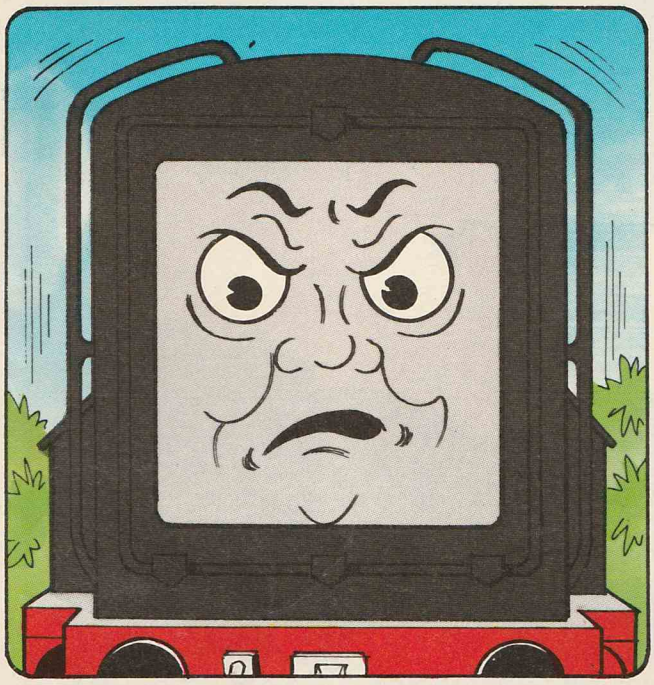


4. Daisy enjoyed working the branch line. But that night, when she was put in the shed, she made an awful fuss. "Gracious! What an awful smell!" she cried.

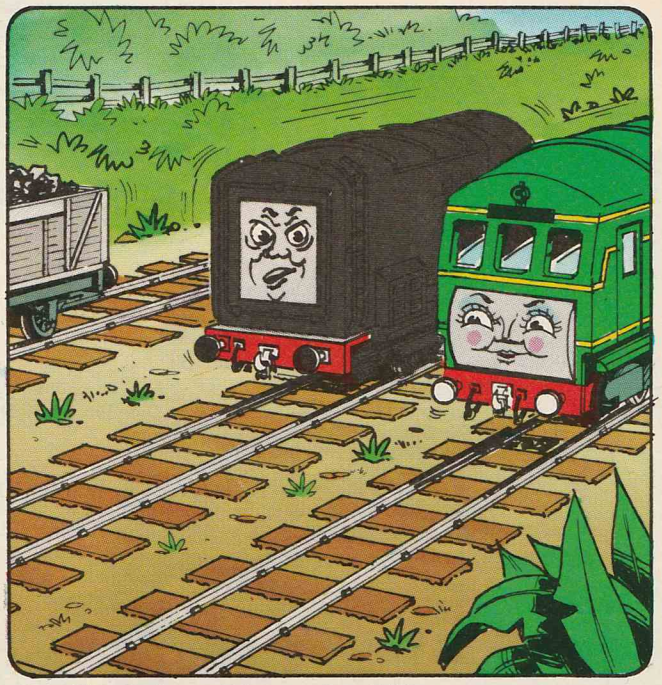
5. The 'awful smell' was coming from Diesel. He had been brought to the station to shunt trucks. He was very pleased to see another diesel engine.



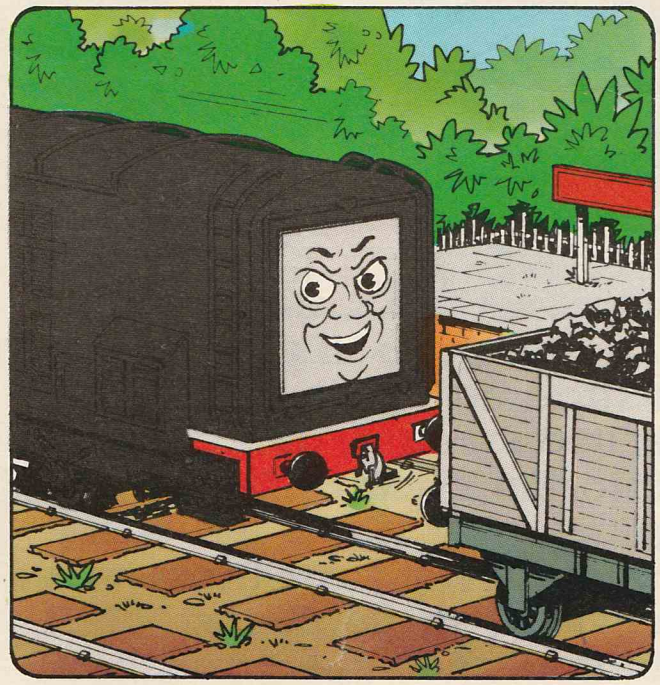
6. "Hello, Daisy!" he said in his oily voice. Daisy snorted. "Are you talking to me?" She didn't like Diesel. "You're so . . . dirty!" she cried.



7. Diesel was beginning to get annoyed. "You're only a diesel engine, like me!" he fumed. Daisy laughed. "But I'm clean and thoroughly modern!" she said.



8. "Dirty diesels like you are a nuisance," said Daisy. This made Diesel so cross that he decided to pay Daisy back for being unfriendly.



9. The following morning, Diesel was shunting coal trucks in the yard. He saw Daisy pulling out of the station with her passengers. She called over to him.

10. "I've complained to the Fat Controller about sharing a shed with you, Diesel," she said huffily. "Tonight I shall be put in a shed with clean coaches!"

11. Diesel grumbled all morning. He was very angry indeed! He treated the trucks badly, banging them about. "Don't do that! Don't do that!" they wailed, but Diesel wouldn't listen. When Daisy had finished her run, she returned to the station and was driven into the yard. Diesel was shunting a coal truck on the same track.

12. He gave the truck an extra-hard push. The truck rolled forward, and crashed into the back of Daisy, toppling over. Coal fell everywhere! Even poor Daisy was covered in coal dust. "Just look at me!" she screeched. Diesel was scolded by the Fat Controller, but he didn't care. "Who's dirty now?" he chuckled to poor Daisy!

THE END

In our next issue: Henry's forest!